

purchased instead of the CAFE loop-hole SUVs that the current federal government still subsidizes. Also the speed limit could be reduced. Yes, all the machines on the freeways are more efficient at lower speeds. It is just physics. Then reduce the need for energy by reducing the demand for AC and Heating because of the unrealistic size of homes. Start programs to subsidize development of solar electric to AC systems in the sunbelt of the U.S. Such a program would significantly reduce the electric grid demand.

The answer to the impact of energy prices could be altered immediately through conservation, not 5 years from now by increases in exploration.

DALE, *Coeur d'Alene*.

We are writing to express our complete asperation with the U.S. Congress' inaction on vital energy questions or maybe it is a not so subtle attempt to ruin our way of life. We and our neighbors live about 70 miles from adequate shopping and medical services. We spend about \$30 for gasoline for each round trip. Ours is a poor, rural community where many people have to commute long distances to work and whose budgets are being wrecked by the current cost of gasoline and diesel fuel. Being a community of mostly self-sufficient, hardworking people who do not have time to publicly complain or demonstrate, we seldom have the opportunity to be heard. We appreciate your invitation to let us express our frustrations.

We believe that election year politics is important but that an issue so vital as energy supplies should be something that our representatives should agree upon. Have we reached a point where the elite of our society are so powerful that the pain felt by everyday citizens is of no importance when balanced against their idealistic agendas?

I am a retired engineer with adequate retirement reserves, and \$4 a gallon gasoline will not bankrupt me. Most of my neighbors are not so fortunate and will be strapped to ever achieve adequate retirement finances if fuel costs and the increased cost of products due to fuel costs are not addressed. The ability to save is being destroyed for the average citizen by increased fuel costs.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to state my opinions. I hope that you will do all that is possible for you to do to ease this burden. We are in favor of drilling for oil both in ANWR and offshore. We are also in favor of nuclear energy. It is the fuel of the future and again we are letting a few loud-mouthed elitists dictate policy and add to the hardships of the people who make the country work.

KAREN and ROY, *Orofino*.

I suspect that you have heard quite a few stories about how rising energy costs have impacted Idahoans lives. I want to tell you how mine has been changed. I work at the INL (Idaho National Laboratory) for the CCP (Central Characterization Project) on the ICP (Idaho Cleanup Project). I tried riding the bus service that the site has provided for decades. At the end of last year, the fuel prices prompted a change in the cost of a bus pass from approx \$11 a week—more than doubling (I believe) to almost \$23 a week. I no longer ride the bus but ride with a co-worker who has been forced to drive because it is cheaper for he and his wife who both work on the ICP to drive than to ride the bus. He is gracious and insists that I do not pay my share of fuel costs or the maintenance on his car. I have filled the car's fuel tank twice, and each time I was caught off guard by my upset wife telling me that the lack of that money was going to cut down on food and other things that we have necessity for in our home. I have been very blessed by the

hands of God in which our country and state reside. My family has never gone hungry, but I truly have to hope now that we never will. If there can be a way to improve the value of the dollar, to lower the price in gas (or even maintain it at the ridiculous price that it is currently at), then myself and many other Idahoans and Americans would be greatly appreciative. I continue to support those who are making wise decisions for the people of the United States, and continue to pray to God that he will preserve me and my family from harder times.

STEPHAN.

My husband and I both are retired. We recently bought a Silverado pick-up in February, almost \$32,000. Do you think we would have bought that had we seen the gas crisis coming? Heavens no! We were going to buy a travel trailer for it to hitch and explore our nation. That thought is completely gone. We have six children, three of whom are married with children, with double incomes to make ends meet. Now, that is all we can do—make ends meet. We are all surviving and, thank God, we are a resourceful nation. We bought a 32 mpg Chevy, and one son bought a motorcycle to commute to work, but we just do not go shopping. We are all making it, but groceries and gasoline seem to be taking our checks. I am worried about the other businesses of our nation who have depended a bit on our incomes. What about them? Start drilling! We are worth more than what we are being handed by the radical environmentalists. God is the one who selects plants and animals for extinction, not us. If he chooses, they could be gone tomorrow no matter what we do. Start drilling!

VAL.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING HARTLEY'S CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP GMC

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as we heard in testimony before the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship last week, auto dealerships are struggling to sell cars in this difficult economy. One of our witnesses remarked that in a healthy economy, auto sales make up approximately 20 percent of our country's retail spending. Clearly, a healthy automobile industry is critical to our economic success. I rise this week to recognize Hartley Chrysler Dodge Jeep GMC, an outstanding auto dealership from my home State of Maine that has remained true to its longstanding commitment to serving its customers and its community, regardless of economic conditions.

Located in the central Maine town of Newport, Hartley's Chrysler Dodge Jeep GMC is a second-generation family-owned small business. Hartley's opened its doors in 1946, when Perley Hartley began selling used vehicles from a filling station in the neighboring town of Corinna. In 1960, the dealership started selling new cars, adding Chrysler and Plymouth as its first automobile lines.

A year after graduating from Eastern Maine Community College in the early 1970s, Steven H. Hartley, now the company's president, went to work for his

father in the sales department at Hartley Motors in the town of Dexter. He eventually bought the original dealership from his uncle Perley and took over operations in 1983, when he moved the business to its current location in Newport. Since then, Steven Hartley has ensured that the dealership is profitable every year. For the company's dedicated work, Hartley's received Daimler/Chrysler's five-star elite dealership status in 2005, an honor held by only two dealerships across Maine.

Mr. Hartley donates his time to promoting the well-being of the entire auto dealer industry throughout Maine and New England. He is a former director of the New England Chrysler Ad Association, and presently serves as a director on the New England Dodge Ad Association. Mr. Hartley also contributes his time and talents as a Director at the Maine Auto Dealers, and a trustee for the Maine Auto Dealers health and insurance trust.

In addition to his business and professional accomplishments, Steven Hartley is a Master Mason and a member of the Shriners. Additionally, Mr. Hartley has served for 20 years as a volunteer firefighter for the Corinna Fire Department, even attaining the rank of department chief. Late last year, he was one of just 49 automobile dealers out of more than 19,500 nationwide that were nominated for the TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award. Through this nomination, he garnered national recognition at the National Automobile Dealers Association Convention and Exposition in January, where he was honored by TIME and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company for his honorable community contributions and his service to the auto dealer industry.

Driving his dealership to a whole new level of success, Steven Hartley has led Hartley's Chrysler Dodge Jeep GMC to the top of the industry and the forefront of the community. Entrepreneurs like Mr. Hartley are striving to ensure that our Nation's auto dealerships are here to stay, and we owe them a debt of gratitude. Congratulations to Steven H. Hartley on his most recent accolades, and I wish everyone at Hartley's Chrysler Dodge Jeep GMC a prosperous year.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)